

**COUNTY OF SUFFOLK
DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE**



**THOMAS J. SPOTA
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

March 19, 2012

Ridge woman convicted of manslaughter 2nd degree; acquitted of four other charges

A 32 year old Ridge woman charged with causing a 2008 crash that killed two people and her unborn baby was convicted this afternoon of one count of manslaughter in the second degree and acquitted of two counts of second degree manslaughter, one count of operating a motor vehicle while under the combined influence of drugs or alcohol as an "A" misdemeanor, and one count of aggravated vehicular homicide.

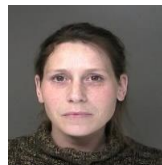
Jennifer Jorgensen was driving on westbound on Whiskey Road in Ridge on the afternoon of May 30, 2008 when her Nissan Sentra crossed the centerline and collided with an eastbound 1999 Ford Taurus driven by Robert Kelly, 75, who died at the scene. His wife, Mary Kelly, 70, died of her injuries approximately three weeks later.

A laboratory analysis of Jorgenson's blood detected a blood alcohol level of .06 and the presence of the anti-anxiety medication Clonazepam.

Jorgensen was eight months pregnant when the crash occurred and gave birth by emergency C-section after the collision. The infant, Ashley Jorgensen-Kaiser, died five days later from injuries caused by the crash. The charge of manslaughter in the second degree that the jury convicted the defendant on charged Jorgensen recklessly caused the death of her daughter, Ashley Jorgensen-Kaiser.

Judge William Condon ordered the defendant held on \$100,000 cash bail or \$200,000 bond. Jorgensen faces five to 15 years in prison when she is sentenced next month.

This was the defendant's second trial; a jury last March was unable to reach a verdict after six days of deliberations and a mistrial was declared.



Jennifer Jorgenson
d/o/b 06-19-79

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Defendants are entitled to a fair trial with the burden on the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.